



**The Holy and All-lauded Apostle Philip
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on November 14.**

This Apostle, one of the Twelve, was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and was a compatriot of Andrew and Peter. He was instructed in the teachings of the Law, and devoted himself to the study of the prophetic books. Therefore, when the Lord Jesus called him to the dignity of apostleship, he immediately sought out Nathaniel and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (John 1:45). Having preached Jesus the God-man throughout many parts of Asia Minor, and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he was finally crucified upside down in Hierapolis of Phrygia.

Rest from labour. Fish allowed.

Dismissal Hymn. Third Tone

O HOLY Apostle Philip, intercede with the merciful God that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of offences.

*Kontakion. Plagal of Fourth Tone
As first-fruits of our nature*

THE God-proclaiming Philip, who was Thy disciple and Thy friend, * who imitated Thy Passion, hath heralded Thee to the world as very God; * through his pleadings, O Saviour, * keep thy Church from the harm of her lawless enemies, * through the pure Theotokos, O Thou Who art greatly merciful.



**† THE HOLY APOSTLE PHILIP
AND † THE EUNUCH OF QUEEN CANDACE OF ETHIOPIA**

And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority, under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I unless some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

The place of the scripture which he read was this,
He was led as a sheep to the slaughter;
and as a lamb before the shearer is dumb, so opens He not His mouth.
In His humiliation His judgment was taken away:
who shall declare His generation? for His life is taken away from the earth.

And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is: what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, if thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip; that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.

Acts 8:26-40.

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretations. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man but holy men spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:20, 21). We are counseled by the Fathers of the Church to follow the interpretation of the scripture that is given to us by the Fathers. Saint Athanasius the Great in his letter to the Bishop Serapion speaks of [“the actual original tradition, teaching and faith of the Catholic Church, which the Lord bestowed, the Apostles proclaimed and the Fathers safeguarded”](#) (*Ad Serapion* I, 28). St. Athanasius himself unquestioningly followed the example of the Ethiopian eunuch in the Book of the Acts of the Apostle quoted above who turned to the Apostle Philip for the interpretation of the passage from the prophecy of Esaias (53: 7, 8 LXX) that he had been reading. As Orthodox Christians we too follow Saint Athanasius and the choir of the Fathers in keeping the Apostolic tradition and eschewing private interpretation of anything pertaining to the Church. (Editor)



†THE HOLY APOSTLE NATHANIEL OF THE †TWELVE,
ALSO KNOWN AS SIMON THE ZEALOT,
WHOM THE HOLY CHURCH CELEBRATES ON APRIL 22.